

## Solihull Visioning Sustainability Group

1.00pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
Church Hill Room 4 - Solihull Council

### Action Points

#### Attendees

- Dave Biss (DB) – SMBC Sustainable Development
- Andrew Cole (AC) – Touchwood
- Beth Emberton (BE) – Arup
- Alexander Heath (AH) – SMBC Economic Development & Regeneration
- Jane Holmes (JH) – Plugged-in Midlands
- Nick Hewett (NW) – RWE npower
- Paul Jenkins (PJe) – NEC Group
- Philip Johnson (PJo) – NISP
- Ken Mantock (KM) – Hardyman Group
- Joe McNamara (JMc) – Jaguar Land Rover (Chair)
- Leeanne Parker (LP) – SMBC Employment & Skills
- Suresh Patel (SP) – Birmingham City Council
- Rachel Smith (RS) – Royal Haskoning DHV
- Stephanie Tyson (ST) – Arup
- Laura Watson (LW) – Hardyman Group
- Christopher Toase (CT) – CNG Services
- Melanie Weaver (MW) – Birmingham Airport

#### Apologies

- Jonathan Bryan (JB) – Aero Engine Control
- John Cave (JC) – EH Smith
- Mark Clemson (MC) – New World Solar
- Lynda Guest (LG) – Environment Agency
- Chris Hawker (CH) – Zest Energy
- Jan Sisson (JS) – Juwi
- Lee Stevenson (LS) – InnerWorkings
- Yuksel Tyler (YT) – Flakt Woods
- Trish Willets (TW) – BB Boutique

#### 1. Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of the Sustainability Visioning Group meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were agreed.

#### ACTIONS

- None

## **2. Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme**

Suresh Patel from Birmingham City Council presented an overview of the Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme – see attached.

A £20 million funding programme to help supply chain companies develop, grow and diversify within the green sector in the West Midlands. The scheme is aimed at companies that operate within the green sector or which are seeking to diversify or set up within this sector, such as renewable energy, low carbon, building technologies, manufacturing, transport and logistics.

**Grant support of between £20k and £1million** is available to develop new markets, new products, new processes, skills development and purchase of capital equipment and premises refurbishment.

The Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme is available to businesses in the local enterprise partnership areas of Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, The Marches, Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent and Worcestershire. It is funded through the Government's Regional Growth Fund and managed by Birmingham City Council.

For further details including how to apply visit: [www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge)

It was agreed the Group would work Birmingham City Council to promote the support available to local businesses through our communication networks.

### **ACTIONS**

- AH / SP – to liaise on promotion of the programme to Solihull businesses

## **3. Plugged-In Midlands**

Jane Holmes from Cenex presented an overview of the Plugged-In Midlands Grants for Electric Car Charging Points – see attached.

The Plugged-In Midlands scheme offers 40% grant towards all the capital costs of installing a charging point for businesses, and 60% grant for all public authorities. This includes the cost of the points themselves, their installation and connection, and any barriers, bay markings or signage. The grant is really quick and easy to apply for, and Plugged in Midlands experts are available to guide organisations through the whole process. The scheme ends in March 2014, so time is of the essence!

To find out more contact [pim@cenex.co.uk](mailto:pim@cenex.co.uk) or visit [www.pluggedinmidlands.co.uk](http://www.pluggedinmidlands.co.uk).

AC reported that Touchwood was currently installing two electric points through the scheme and noted how simple and straight forward the process has been.

It was agreed the Group would promote the programme to local businesses through our communication networks.

### **ACTIONS**

- AH / SP – to liaise on promotion of the programme

#### **4. Traineeships**

Leeanne Parker from Solihull Council's Employment & Skills Team reported on the opportunity to develop a collaborative employer led Traineeship Programme within the Environmental Technologies sector within Solihull – see attached.

A Traineeship is an unpaid work placement with a study element, lasting between six weeks and six months in order to develop the work and employment skills of young people. Currently, young people aged 16-19 years can participate in Traineeships with an employer willing to provide a work placement and a training provider engaged to deliver the key study elements, which include work preparation training, English and Maths support.

Following much consultation with employers, Traineeships have been designed to improve the work skills of young people by allowing employers to provide trainees with good quality placements that may even lead to future employment, in the form of an Apprenticeship or a full time role.

**Employers are able to lead the design of their Traineeship** (in conjunction with the training provider) and provide coaching and mentoring support alongside the study element. A key benefit of Traineeships is that employers can grow skills and talent that could potentially be employed by the business.

#### **ACTIONS**

- LP – to circulate further details when available.

#### **5. Progress Updates**

AH circulated feedback analysis from the 'Sustainable Building Futures' and 'NEC Sustainability' Breakfast Visits -

#### **'Sustainable Building Futures' Breakfast Visit - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

Business visit to Coventry University's Sustainable Building Futures Programme on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 - providing sustainable construction technology development, knowledge transfer and advice and support for business - [www.coventry.ac.uk/sbf](http://www.coventry.ac.uk/sbf). Delegates were able to find out more about the programme and have a guided tour of the Faculty of Engineering & Computing's new £53m state of the art BREEAM excellent building – a live demonstrator for sustainable construction.

- 12 delegates attended from 6 different organisations
- 98% 'good or excellent' event format and organisation
- 100% fulfilled expectations
- 100% met business needs

### **NEC Sustainability Breakfast Visit – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

An exclusive behind the scenes breakfast visit to the NEC on Wednesday 7th August 2013. Delegates were able to find out how the NEC were embracing sustainable business practices and have a guided tour of the NEC's Award Winning Waste Pre-Treatment Centre. Topics covered included: Achieving 'Zero Waste to Landfill', Environmental Responsibility's, Woodland Management and Low Carbon CHP.

- 14 delegates from 10 different organisations
- 100% 'good or excellent' event format and organisation
- 100% fulfilled expectations
- 100% met business needs

"Very interesting event. Thank you!" "Well organised and informative!" "Excellent presentations, well delivered"

AH thanked 'Team NEC' for hosting such a successful event.

It was noted that whilst the number of attendees at the events was affected by the summer holiday period, they attracted largely a new audience.

### **LinkedIn Network**

Solihull Sustainability Visioning Network on LinkedIn now has 95 members.

The Group can help support further development of the Network by -

- Invite colleagues / connections to join the Network (Share Group function)
- Posting relevant articles / provide feedback comments / 'Liking' relevant articles

### **Smarter Working West Midlands – Energy & Resource Efficiency Workshop**

AH reported that following on from discussions at our last meeting, we are currently planning an 'Energy & Resource Efficiency Workshop' with Smarter Working West Midlands to promote their offer of 'FREE Energy and Resource Efficiency' Survey for SME's. The agenda will include 'Top Tips' for Energy & Resource Efficiency and local Case Studies. Timing and venue are to be confirmed.

LW reported that Hardyman had just received their survey and would be happy to act as a Case Study.

JMc highlighted the opportunity for larger businesses to promote the programmes to their supply chain.

### **ACTIONS**

- AH / HJ – to confirm arrangements

#### **4. Hillfields Park Environmental Volunteering Event – 18/10/13**

DB outlined arrangements for the Group's next environmental volunteering event at Hillfield Park on Friday 18th October 2013.

Businesses will be asked to join with volunteers from Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group to carryout footpath works, vegetation clearance, coppicing, wild flower meadow creation and environmental improvements within the local park. The works are aimed at both enhancing the environment and improving access and amenity for park visitors.

Activities on the day will take place between 12.00 -15.30 and will be fully coordinated and supervised by Solihull Council's Environmental Champions Team, so all you need to do is book your place and turn up wearing appropriate clothing.

Should businesses be able to assist by bringing along a rotavator, brush cutters or a chipper would be much appreciated as this will help support activity on the day.

#### **ACTIONS**

- AH / DB to circulate arrangements / booking instructions

#### **5. Action Planning / Forward Programme**

The Group reviewed and updated the SSVG Action Plan for 2013/14 – see attached.

The Group reviewed the 'Events Calendar' highlighting forthcoming events supported by the Group – see attached.

AC offered to host a Touchwood Sustainability Business Visit in the New Year.

#### **ACTIONS**

- JMc / AH – to confirm arrangements for Jaguar Land Rover Sustainability Business Visit
- AH – 'Events Calendar' to be updated and circulated for each meeting

#### **6. Any Other Business**

NH updated the Group on how npower are promoting sustainable travel options at their Princes Way offices, including provision of employee shuttle busses and priority car share parking (saving fuel & CO2). They are carrying out an employee survey to see they can promote further car sharing or cycling to the office.

NH also reported how it can be financially beneficial for businesses to utilise on site generators under Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) contract with National Grid. STOR is needed because at certain times of the day National Grid needs reserve power in the form of either generation or demand reduction to be able to deal with actual demand being greater than forecast demand and/or plant unavailability.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- 1.00pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013 – Solihull Civic Suite
- 1.00pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – venue tbc